

Recycle on The Go at Special Events

Recycling and
Waste Management at Special Events

Litter and overflowing waste containers detract from your event





Recyclables mixed with waste



Now you see it.....

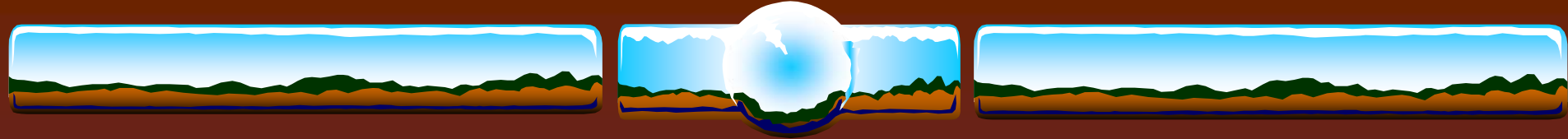




Now you don't!



Volunteers at the National Cherry Blossom Festival
keep the festival litter free!



Planning for Waste Management at Special Events

- ❖ Purpose is to develop a plan that will modify the behavior of patrons and vendors to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- ❖ How: Education and by identifying as well as providing alternatives to dumping



Planning for Waste Management and Recycling at Events: Basics

- ❖ Assign a waste and recycling coordinator from event staff
- ❖ Develop an integrated waste management plan that includes reuse, reduce, recycle targets
- ❖ Provide collection stations, receptacles and signs
- ❖ Provide for a staging area to collect recyclables before transferring to MRF
- ❖ Recruit volunteers to help with waste management, recycling and maintaining a litter free event



Steps

- ❖ Establish lines of communication with recycling facility. Invite them to planning meetings
- ❖ Vendor Relations: Vendors must participate in the event planning process
- ❖ Educate public by having signs and instructions for disposal at vendor locations



Vendors

- ❖ Must try to reduce packaging impacts and encourage customers to recycle beverage containers
- ❖ Minimize use of packaging materials in products
- ❖ Replace styrofoam with lightweight paperboard containers
- ❖ Eliminate or reduce size of napkins and straws
- ❖ Purchase paper products that are made with recycled or biobased content.



Greatest Obstacles

- ❖ Crowds
- ❖ Large un-gated events
- ❖ No restrictions for bringing in outside food
- ❖ Food vendors contribute the largest amount of wastes generated at most festivals



Recycling Bins

- ❖ Place a recycling bin next to each trash can.
- ❖ Recycling bin lids should only allow the recyclables to enter.
- ❖ Recycling bins with flat tops sometimes get trash placed on them, so consider getting recycling bins with the opening on the side.
- ❖ Clearly indicate what can be recycled, using both graphics and words, on each side of the bin.
- ❖ Clearly label trash cans.
- ❖ Use banners, or other signage, above the bins so their location can be seen from a distance.
- ❖ Distribute the bins throughout the event, placing more in high-traffic areas.
- ❖ Make sure trash and recycling bins are emptied frequently.

Recycling and Waste Management Stations

❖ Visually attractive, convenient, identifiable





Permanent Public Space Recycling Receptacles



RECYCLE
HERE
↓

ALUMINUM CANS

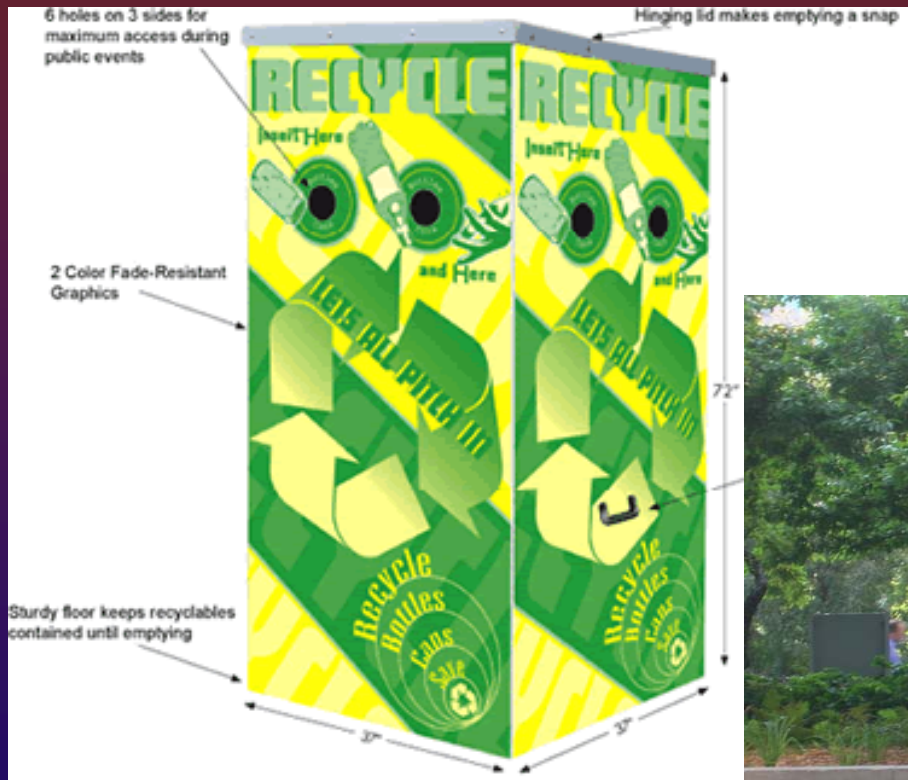
PLASTIC

VENDING





Attractive Recycling Containers





www.outdoorpartner.com

1.866.977.8447



Beverage container collection receptacles from the American Beverage Association



- ❖ Attractive recycling collection containers, sufficient waste receptacles help to collect valuable recyclables and keep your event litter free.



TRASH ONLY

**No Plastic, Glass, or Aluminum
Beverage Containers.**
Please look for recycling nearby.



Smithsonian Folklife Festival



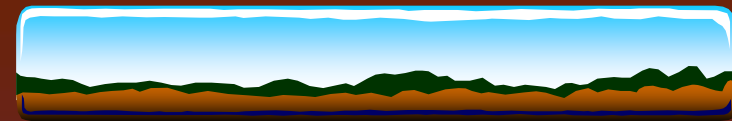




**PLASTIC BOTTLES
&
PLASTIC CUPS
ONLY**

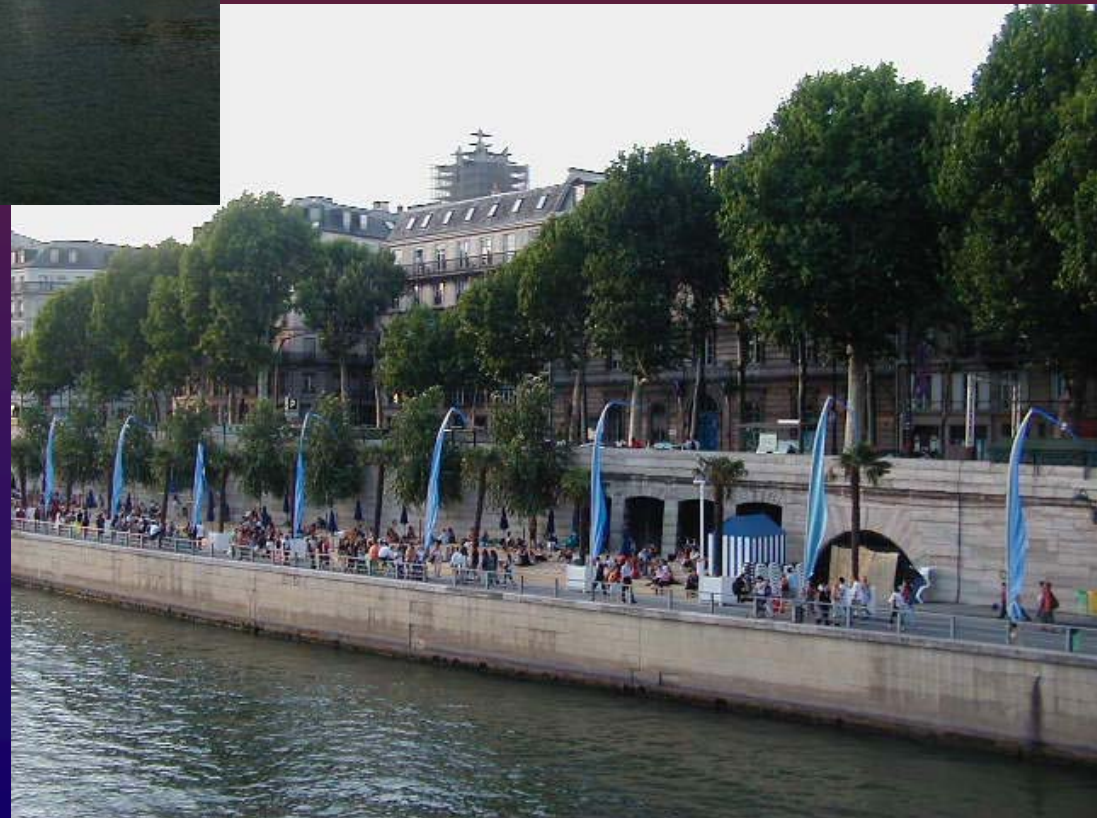


RECYCLE



❖ 2 million visitors to Paris Plage can recycle their containers!

❖ Parks, beaches and public celebrations are excellent venues for Recycling on the Go!



Recycling containers are next to waste containers at Paris Plage



Containers are clearly labeled for recyclables and waste



Contact Information

Judy Taylor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
taylor.judy@epa.gov
703/308-7277

www.epa.gov/recycleonthego